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Delta Stewardship Council's Implementation Committee

Dedicated to Achieving the Coequal Goals

Background

The Delta Reform Act directs the Delta Stewardship Council to “**establish and oversee a committee of agencies responsible for implementing the Delta Plan.**” The law states that “**each agency shall coordinate its actions pursuant to the Delta Plan with the Council and other relevant agencies.**” (Water Code §85204)

The Implementation Committee will be made up of agency leaders responsible for actions affecting attainment of the coequal goals. It will be supported by staff from the Delta Stewardship Council (primarily) and member agencies. It will be led by either a member of the Delta Stewardship Council or its Executive Officer.

The Implementation Committee will meet twice a year, with at least one meeting devoted to scientific exchange and policy updates. Meetings will be open to the public, but will not generally be designed for public comment unless specifically directed by the Delta Stewardship Council.

Key Responsibilities

Work Groups

- Create and charter new work groups devoted to resolution of specific issues.

- Consider recommendations from work groups.

Oversight Responsibilities

- Coordinate planned Delta actions among all Delta agencies to maximize efficient project implementation.

- Review commitments, progress and accomplishments of all Delta Agencies. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of interagency efforts. Recommend changes to improve attainment of the coequal goals.

Valuing Science Contributions

- Provide an annual forum for Delta scientists to present their findings to managers and policy makers and to adapt relevant policies and management programs in response.

Coordinating Financial Issues

- Identify annual opportunities to leverage funding to improve the attainment of the coequal goals.

Resolving Interagency Issues

- Provide a forum for discussing and resolving interagency implementation issues.

Creating a Unified Delta Approach

Provide a voice for presenting Delta accomplishments, the status of restoration efforts, and status of improvements in water supply, risk reduction, and maintaining the Delta as an evolving place.

Membership of the Implementation Committee

The Implementation Committee will be comprised of executive directors from federal and state agencies directly involved with Delta water management and ecological recovery.

Federal Agency partners include:

Representative

1. Bureau of Reclamation
2. NOAA Fisheries
3. US Fish and Wildlife
4. US Department of Interior
5. National Marine Fisheries Service
6. US Army Corp of Engineers
7. US Bureau of Reclamation
8. US Environmental Protection Agency

State Agency partners include:

1. Department of Water Resources
2. Department of Fish and Wildlife
3. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy .
4. Delta Protection Commission
5. Resources Agency
6. Delta Stewardship Council
7. State Water Resources Control Board
8. BDCP
9. Department of Food and Agriculture
10. Cal EPA

Other experts may be drawn from other federal or state agencies not currently identified, academia, research institutes, non-profit organizations, and the private and public sector.

Roles of the Delta Stewardship Council are as follows:

1. Establish and oversee the Implementation Committee as directed by the Delta Reform Act
2. Convene all meetings, prepare necessary materials such as agendas and handouts, and arrange logistics
3. Chair Implementation Committee meetings, introduce agenda items, and provide updates
4. Provide administrative staff support
5. Update the Delta Stewardship Council about the work of the Implementation Committee at scheduled Council Board meetings

Member representatives shall:

1. Commit to attend and participate in Implementation Committee meetings at a level that supports the overall objectives of the committee; Executive Director level preferred
2. Reliably represent their agency's views
3. Share agency information openly to achieve our mutual objectives
4. Review and provide comments on issues before the committee
5. Seek mutually agreeable solutions

Ad Hoc Work Groups

The Delta Plan identifies a significant role for ad hoc work groups created by the Implementation Committee to address issues and develop recommendations for consideration by the full Implementation Committee. These work groups will be created as needed based on substantive or place-based considerations. Work groups may address their tasks in a range of timeframes, e.g. in one or two sessions over a month or in recurring sessions over a longer period. In all cases, work groups will not make decisions, but rather will bring recommendations or options back to the Implementation Committee for broader discussion and public input.

Initial work groups might be:

- 1) Upper Watershed Group
- 2) Near Term Actions
- 3) Performance Elements
- 4) Water Conservation and Reuse
- 5) Comprehensive Restoration Plan
- 6) Water Supply and Reliability
- 7) Adaptive Management Implementation
- 8) Risk Reduction Actions
- 9) Emergency Services Actions

Work Group functional rules:

- 1) Each group must have a purpose statement
- 2) Each group must identify desired products
- 3) Each group must identify when the product will be delivered.
- 4) Results will be presented to the Implementation Committee for consideration.